

WPBSA Eligibility Policy and Rules for Open and Women's Tournaments

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Snooker and billiards are inclusive sports that provide recreational and competitive opportunities for everyone. In women's Tournaments there is an eligibility requirement based on biological sex in accordance with the applicable law (the law of England and Wales, and specifically Sections 195(1)-(3) of the Equality Act 2010, which Act shall for the purposes of these Eligibility Policy and Rules be deemed to be of worldwide effect).
- 1.2. These WPBSA Eligibility Policy and Rules for Open and Women's Tournaments (Eligibility Policy and Rules) come into force on 12th March 2026, supersede the WPBSA Trans and Gender Diverse Policy, and will apply in full and with immediate effect. This Eligibility Policy and Rules will be subject to periodic review and may be amended following such review to take account of any new evidence and/or relevant scientific, medical, legal or other developments.
- 1.3. This Eligibility Policy and Rules address the eligibility of players in Tournaments (as defined in the WPBSA Conduct Regulations) based on biological sex. National snooker federations may adopt their own policies to determine player eligibility for open, men's, and women's Tournaments taking place under their respective jurisdictions, provided that nothing in those policies will affect the eligibility of players under this Eligibility Policy and Rules.
- 1.4. This Eligibility Policy and Rules is in no way intended as any kind of judgement on or disputing of the legal sex or the gender identity of any player. All forms of abuse and/or harassment are prohibited, including stigmatisation against a player simply on the basis that their appearance does not conform to gender stereotypes.
- 1.5. In this Eligibility Policy and Rules, 'biological male' means someone with a Y chromosome and 'biological female' means someone with no Y chromosome, irrespective of their legal sex and/or gender identity. Unless indicated or the context requires otherwise, capitalised words and phrases in this Eligibility Policy and Rules are defined terms and have the meaning given to them in the WPBSA Conduct Regulations.
- 1.6. In the case of confidential queries regarding the implementation of this this Eligibility Policy and Rules in specific cases, please contact Chris Hornby at the WPBSA (Chris.Hornby@wpbsa.com).
- 1.7. If an issue arises that is not foreseen in this Eligibility Policy and Rules, it will be addressed by the WPBSA in a manner that safeguards and promotes its objectives as the international governing body of snooker and billiards.

2. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- 2.1. Open Tournaments: All players – irrespective of their biological sex, legal sex and/or gender identity – may compete in open Tournaments.

- 2.2. Women's Tournaments: Only biological female players may compete in women's Tournaments.
- 2.3. Trans men (biological females):
 - 2.3.1. Subject to paragraph 2.3.2, a trans man (biological female) player who does not use testosterone as part of male gender-affirming treatment may compete in open Tournaments and/or women's Tournaments.
 - 2.3.2. A trans man (biological female) player who uses or has used testosterone as part of male gender-affirming treatment may compete in open Tournaments but may not compete in women's Tournaments (unless and until four years have passed since their last use of testosterone).

3. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY AND INVESTIGATION

- 3.1. Any player who wishes to compete in women's Tournaments must, on request by the WPBSA, demonstrate their eligibility to compete in women's Tournaments.
- 3.2. The WPBSA may investigate any case by such means as it deems necessary, including (without limitation) requesting medical information, documentation, and SRY gene testing if required to determine eligibility.
- 3.3. A player who fails to cooperate in full with any request or investigation by the WPBSA pursuant to this Eligibility Policy and Rules will not be eligible to compete in women's Tournaments.

4. PLAYER OBLIGATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 4.1. The eligibility conditions set out in this Eligibility Policy and Rules operate without prejudice to other eligibility or other requirements that are applicable to all players under the Rules, which must also be satisfied at all relevant times. In particular, nothing in this Eligibility Policy and Rules permits, excuses, or justifies non-compliance with any of the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code, the WADA International Standards, or the WPBSA Anti-Doping Rules, including in particular the requirement for a player to obtain a therapeutic use exemption for the use of substances on the WADA Prohibited List (see the WADA Transgender Athletes TUE Physician Guidelines, available on the WADA website).
- 4.2. A player who wishes to be eligible to compete in women's Tournaments agrees: (a) to cooperate promptly and in good faith with the WPBSA in the implementation of this Eligibility Policy and Rules, including by providing all of the information and evidence requested by the WPBSA to determine whether they satisfy the eligibility conditions, and by ensuring that all information and evidence provided by them or on their behalf to the WPBSA is accurate and complete, and that nothing relevant is withheld;
 - (b) (to the fullest extent permitted and not contrary to applicable laws) to the collection, processing, disclosure and use of information (including their sensitive personal information) as required to implement and apply this Eligibility Policy and Rules effectively and efficiently; and

(c) to provide written confirmation of their agreement with this paragraph upon request by the WPBSA. However, the player's agreement to this Eligibility Policy and Rules will be assumed as an automatic consequence of their participation in Tournaments and is effective and binding upon them whether or not confirmed in writing. A player may revoke at any time, without having to give reasons, the consent that they have granted further to this paragraph. In that case, the player will be deemed to have withdrawn any claim to be eligible to compete in women's Tournaments.

4.3. All cases arising under this Eligibility Policy and Rules, and in particular all information relating to a player that is provided to the WPBSA under this Eligibility Policy and Rules, must be always maintained in strict confidence by all parties. All medical information and data relating to a player will be treated as sensitive personal information, and the WPBSA will process it as such in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Such information and data may not be used for any purpose that is not contemplated by, or otherwise necessary in the context of, this Eligibility Policy and Rules and may not be disclosed to any third party save

(a) as is strictly necessary for the effective application and enforcement of this Eligibility Policy and Rules, or

(b) as is required by applicable law. The WPBSA will not comment publicly on the specific facts of a case arising under this Eligibility Policy and Rules (as opposed to general descriptions of the process and science involved) except in response to public comments made by a player or the player's support personnel or national federation.

5. ENFORCEMENT AND LIABILITY

5.1. Any breach of this Eligibility Policy and Rules (including where a player competes in a Tournament for which they have not satisfied the eligibility conditions set out in this Eligibility Policy and Rules) will be subject to the Conduct Regulations. The consequences imposed for competing while ineligible will (unless the circumstances of the case dictate otherwise) include disqualification of any of the results achieved by a player while ineligible, with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any prizes, ranking points, prize money, records and/or other benefits awarded to the player based on those results. Players acknowledge that a consequence of disqualification of results in such circumstances may be that the reason for disqualification becomes public knowledge (or may be the subject of public speculation).

5.2. This Eligibility Policy and Rules and any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Eligibility Policy and Rules will be governed by and construed in accordance with English law, without regard to its conflict of law rules, and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

5.3. In no circumstances will the WPBSA or any of the WPBSA's employees, officers, agents, representatives, or experts be liable in any way to any person in relation to acts done (or omitted to be done) in good faith in connection with this Eligibility Policy and Rules. Each case will be addressed as quickly as is reasonably practicable in all of the circumstances. However, in no circumstance will the WPBSA be liable for any detriment allegedly suffered by a player (or anyone else) as a result of the length of time taken to complete the investigation and/or assessment of their case.